



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 12, 2010**

**Contact:** Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **APD wants residents to use caution when parking during SXSW events**

The Austin Police Department wants its residents and visitors to use caution when parking around the City of Austin during SXSW events. APD will be enforcing all laws applicable to towing during SXSW.

Numerous parking zones will be designated as part of the SXSW event. If you park on private property, be aware of Towing Signs that are placed at the entrances and exits of the properties. State law requires signs at the entrance and exit points, but not necessarily in front of the parking place. If these signs are up and you violate the warning on the sign you may be towed.

APD wants to remind residents that parking is limited in some areas of the city during SXSW. In addition, residents should be mindful of designated loading and unloading zone and other tow-away zones.

If your vehicle is in the process of being towed and you contact the tow truck driver before your vehicle is fully prepared for transport it must be released for free.

If you are towed, the maximum amount that a towing company can charge is \$150.00. Once the vehicle reaches the Vehicle Storage Facility (VSF) the added charge is a \$20.00 impound fee and a \$20.00 storage fee (both of which are authorized by state law), bringing the total to \$190.00 plus tax. After the first 24 hours the tow company can charge an additional \$50.00 for a notification fee, which is also authorized by state law. This would bring the total to \$240.00 plus tax.

### **PRIVATE PROPERTY TOWING INFORMATION**

1. If you wish to contest a non-consent tow or the impoundment of your vehicle, you must request a tow hearing. The tow hearing must be scheduled within 14 days of the vehicle being towed. The Justice of the Peace (JP) in the precinct from which the vehicle was towed will hold the tow hearing. For additional details on tow hearings please contact the responsible JP's office at:
  - a. *PRECINT 1*: Northeast 929-0593
  - b. *PRECINT 2*: Northwest 854-4545



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- c. *PRECINT* 3: Southwest 854-6763
- d. *PRECINT* 4: Southeast 854-9479
- e. *PRECINT* 5: Central 854-9049

2. If you think your vehicle has been towed illegally within the City of Austin please call **311**, have an offense report generated, then contact the **Austin Police Department's Wrecker Enforcement Unit at 512-974-8119** with your offense number.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT TOWING Fees: **The City of Austin only regulates non-consent towing fees:**

- a. Regular non-consent tow for vehicles under 10,000 lbs: \$150
- b. Regular non-consent tow for vehicles 10,001 – 25,999: \$400
- c. Regular non-consent tow for vehicles 26,000+: \$800
- d. There is no longer a private property on site fee. (Example: tow truck is backed up to vehicle but not completely ready for transport). \$0
- e. The private property tow truck is fully prepared for transport and still on site \$50

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